

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

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APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE:BJR

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TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 164784

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NSA, PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA: PRESS RELEASE RE CLOSING OF STATION

1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE MADE PUBLIC JULY 11 BY NASA:
QUOTE NASA HEAD QUARTERS REPORTED TODAY THE CLOSING ON
JULY 14 OF A TRACKING AND DATA ACQUISITION STATION IN
MADAGASCAR. NASA HAS OPERATED THE STATION SINCE 1964 BY

AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC.
THE MOST RECENT EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT EXPIRED IN
DECEMBER 1973. DESPITE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS SINCE THAT
TIME IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE A NEW AGREEMENT
ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH NASA AND THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT.

NASA HAS HOWEVER ALTERNATE FACILITIES SO THAT THE CLOSING
OF THE MADAGASCAR STATION WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH NASA
OPERATIONS. END QUOTE.

2. NATIONAL MEDIA HAS ALREADY PICKED UP STORY. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: n/a
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